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Center for Public Affairs Research: 2014-15



The **Center for Public Affairs Research** (CPAR) celebrated the 25th anniversary of its designation as the lead agency of the Nebraska State Data Center by the Governor. In addition to its 25 years of service to the state of Nebraska and the Omaha area, the NSDC sponsored its **25th Annual Data Users Conference**. We designed the emblem at the top of this page to use in the promotion of the conference. We were nominated for national State Data Center of the year.

CPACS Diversity Initiative

CPAR was established in 1963 as the **Center for Urban Studies**. Its initial mission was to address urban problems and information needs. During the past year, CPAR began to reexamine its historical urban mission within the current operating environment. Issues of diversity and social problems are key components in this effort. Activities include:

1. Strengthened relationships and developed collaborations with Black Studies and Office of Latino/Latin American Studies.
2. Worked with CPACS, other UNO faculty and staff and community organizations that have similar interests in the issues of diversity and social problems. With funding provided by the CPACS Dean's Office, administered and helped select 8 Urban Research grants for CPACS faculty and staff, many working with community partners.

Applied Research

1. **Nebraska Legislature's Planning Committee**
 - *Nebraska Legislature's Planning Committee 2014 Report: Database* (With Public Administration and Dean's Office for the fifth year).
 - *Nebraska Legislature's Planning Committee 2014 Report: Policy Briefs* (With CPACS and other NU faculty)
 - *Selected Characteristics for Nebraska Legislative Districts from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey*
 - *Selected Characteristics for Nebraska Counties from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey*
 - *Nebraska Legislative District Quick Facts*
 - *Selected Characteristics for Census Tracts in Douglas, Sarpy, Lancaster and Hall Counties, Nebraska, from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey*
2. Completed the 2015 update of the Nebraska Energy Burden Study.
3. Published results from the Nebraska Metro Poll.
4. Funded research with other CPACS, UNO, and NU faculty
 - Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Assistance Grant-Phase II
 - Nebraska Rural Transit NU Development and Support Grant
 - RFI, Catalyzing the Role of Micropolitan America in the Future of Rural America
 - HRSA, Project Network
 - OPPD, Solar Energy Development
5. Other funded research: DOT, Fast Forward Electronic Media
6. **Proposals submitted with other CPACS, UNO, and NU faculty**
 - Sex Offender Registry Program Research Methodology proposal (not funded)

- Native American Drug Free Communities (under review)
- Evaluation of Basic Youth Education Program in Rural India (under review)

CPAR Publication Archive

The CPAR publication archive is available at <http://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/cpar>. All publications have either been uploaded or have been submitted for inclusion. We have a total of 513 documents currently available; receiving 8,612 downloads between April 2014 and April 2015.

Materials from Annual Data Users Conference for the past 6 years are available at <http://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/datausers>. There are 55 documents included in this collection; receiving 499 downloads between April 2014 and April 2015.

State Data Center Program

1. As the lead agency for the Nebraska State Data Center, CPAR continued to manage the program that also consists of a network of 23 state and local agencies.
2. [facebook.com/unocpar](https://www.facebook.com/unocpar)--We post most days and have 325 likes, but posts often reach several hundred additional people with our work and insight.
3. Prepared special reports, data tables, and power point presentations using the 2010 Census, American Community Survey, intercensal estimates and other sources and placed them on CPAR's website. (<http://www.unomaha.edu/cpar/>)
4. CPAR's redesigned website using the new CMS went live on July 28, 2014. Since then there have been 6,469 pageviews, averaging 1:35 minutes per session (July 28, 2014 – April 27, 2015). CPAR's previous website had 1,878 pageviews, averaging 3:30 minutes per session (April 28, 2014 – July 27, 2015).
5. Sponsored the 25th Annual Data Users Conference. For the 4th consecutive year we used Adobe Connect. We had 190 in-person and 30 web participants from throughout Nebraska and the U.S. The 26th Annual Data Users Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th in the CPACS Building. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.
6. Worked on numerous Census-related projects including:
 - Summarized Nebraska's poverty data by a variety of geographic areas and demographic characteristics, including an analysis of the new Supplemental Poverty measure.
 - Compared birth rates by race/ethnicity over time.
7. Worked with state media including, the Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal-Star, Grand Island Independent, Norfolk Daily News among numerous other newspapers and with radio and TV stations (e.g. KFAB and KIOS) on demographic information from the census and other sources. Interviewed by Univision and Fox News Latino.
8. Made 20+ data-related presentations throughout the state, with more than 750 contacts.
9. Made numerous presentations to classes within CPACS and UNO on using Census and other data.
10. Responded to approximately 400 information requests from throughout the state and nation, although mostly from the Omaha area. Many of these requests are from the offices of Nebraska state legislators.

Survey Research

1. CPAR staff provided technical assistance and advice on conducting surveys to CPACS and UNO faculty and students, nonprofit, and government agencies.

CPACS Support

1. Coordinated the Certificate in Fundraising Management program. The 2014-2015 term was the 15th year CPACS/CPAR offered the program. Over 150 individuals have earned the Certificate during that time. In 2014-2015 there were 12 courses held, averaging 13.5 participants per class. There were 79 unique participants, most taking multiple courses. Six participants received the Certificate in Fall 2014 and seven participants are expected to receive the Certificate in Spring 2015.
2. CPACS Websites Technical Support – Provide technical assistance to 4 non-CPAR website (CPACS, bibliophiles, AI Golf Classic, Omaha Poets Place); along with assisting several units with online form creation and management.

3. CPACS Website Conversion Project – CPAR provided logistical support to all units during the website conversion. CPACS sites went live in July; and all sites completed conversion by end of December.
4. Planning Committee for upcoming Aging with Passion & Purpose Conference.
5. Moderate NASPAA listserv.

Consortium for Organizational Research and Evaluation (CORE)

Completed

1. Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition: Year-3 Evaluation: Community Substance-Abuse Survey and Capacity-Building Assessment
2. Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition: Evaluation of Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Program, Year 5

In Progress

1. Omaha Public Library, 2-year evaluation of Community Engagement: Creating a Culture of Collaboration funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS).
2. Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition: Evaluation Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug-Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (ATOD) Year-4,” an evaluation of a continuing substance-abuse prevention.
3. Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition: Evaluation of Soaring over Methamphetamine and Suicide Program (SOMS) Year-56” an evaluation of a continuing substance-abuse and suicide prevention.
4. The Impacts of Gun and Neighborhood Violence on Public Health: Views of Victims and Witnesses (A Multi-media Documentary Program).